Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 27, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 21 totaled an estimated 18.6 billion ton-miles, 2.4 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 47 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 838.2 billion ton-miles, 0.6 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended November 21 totaled 431,944 cars, 6.1 percent below 1980, but 2.1 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 7.4 percent in the East, 4.6 percent in the South, and 6.0 percent in the West.

Seventeen of the 21 commodity groups were down compared with the corresponding week a year ago, although coal loadings were up 14,421 cars, or 11.8 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups showed gains over the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended November 14 totaled 33,940 cars, up 7.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 61,919 trailers and/or containers, up 7.6 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 46 weeks of the year was 1,516,893 cars, 2.5 percent higher than last year, and 2,755,589 trailers and/or containers, 2.5 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/21/81:

	Loadings in Week ended November 21, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,437	D	2,692	8.1	I	3,458	12.8
Other farm products	6,256	I	749	13.6	D	317	4.8
Metallic ores	26,605	D	2,950	10.0	I	2,060	8.4
Coal	136,781	I	14,421	11.8	I	450	0.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,713	D	2,780	20.6	I	92	0.9
Nonmetallic minerals	9,662	D	3,532	26.8	D	496	4.9
Grain mill products	14,344	D	2,576	15.2	I	379	2.7
Food and kindred products	15,495	D	3,027	16.3	I	772	5.2
Primary forest products	18,636	D	1,190	6.0	I	830	4.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,668	D	2,794	29.5	I	911	15.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	18,273	D	1,974	9.7	I	730	4.2
Chemicals and allied products	23,685	D	3,803	13.8	D	965	3.9
Petroleum products	5,535	D	197	3.4	I	511	10.2
Stone, clay and glass products	11,998	D	3,401	22.1	D	92	0.8
Coke	5,972	I	22	0.4	D	232	3.7
Metals and products	12,977	D	3,479	21.1	I	270	2.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,106	D	5,030	26.3	D	998	6.6
Waste and scrap materials	10,400	D	3,158	23.3	D	199	1.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,819	D	1,353	12.1	I	518	5.6
All other carloads	43,361	I	707	1.7	I	1,135	2.7
LCL traffic	221	D	20	8.3	D	16	6.8
Total Cars Loaded	431,944	D	28,057	6.1	I	8,801	2.1
Corresponding week of 1980	460,001						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (47 weeks)	19,841,042	20,583,356	D	3.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
46 Weeks cumulative	819.6	814.4	I	0.6
Week ended November 21	18.6	19.0	D	2.4
47 Weeks cumulative	838.2	833.5	I	0.6

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